

3-22-2017

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### Recommended Citation

Panda, S., Briggs-Steinberg, C., DeBenedictis, B., Narayana, S., & La Gamma, E. F. (2017). Outcomes in Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) Treated with Granulocyte Colony Stimulating Factor (GCSF) and Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIG) vs Standard of Care Alone: RCT Interim Safety Analysis. Retrieved from [https://touro scholar.touro.edu/nymc\\_fac\\_posters/24](https://touro scholar.touro.edu/nymc_fac_posters/24)

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# Outcomes in Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) Treated with Granulocyte Colony Stimulating Factor (GCSF) and Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIG) vs Standard of Care Alone: RCT Interim Safety Analysis

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## Background

- The incidence of necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) is < 15% in ELBW neonates & is associated with > 25% mortality; medical management has not changed for the past 40 yrs.
- GCSF increases the absolute neutrophil count, improves neutrophil function (↑ Fc & C’ receptor density) and lowers TNFα.
- IVIG improves phagocytosis, oxidative burst and opsonization activity.
- GCSF induced phagocytosis improves further in vitro when opsonized with IgG, we hypothesized that combining the interventions will improve neonatal outcomes with Bell stage II NEC.

## Objectives

We seek to determine whether GCSF+IVIG augmented standard of care improves survival & expedites recovery vs standard of care therapy (SRx) alone in preterm neonates (<37 wks) with pneumatosis (Bell Stage II).

## Methods

- IRB approved, parent consented, single center prospective, RCT of any preterm neonate who developed NEC at our NICU since Oct 2011.
- Neonates are randomly assigned to either SRx or treated with GCSF (10 mcg/kg/d) and IVIG (500 mg/kg/d) IV x 3d along with SRx.
- The primary outcome is survival to one month or the ability to attain full enteral feeds within 3 weeks of antibiotics.
- Serial blood counts are monitored on days 0, 1, 2, 3 & 7-10d.
- RCT interim safety analysis was done by paired t-test and chi-square.

## Demographics

	Standard n=12	Treated n=17
Gestational Age (wks) Mean ± SEM (median, Min-Max)	27 ± 0.5 (27, 25-30)	28 ± 0.7 (28, 24-34)
Birth weight (g)	1017 ± 68 (1005, 600-1510)	1007 ± 95 (1030, 430-2120)
SGA %(n)	0 (0)	24 (4)
Antenatal Steroids %(n)	83 (10)	82 (14)
Male %(n)	75 (9)	24 (4)*

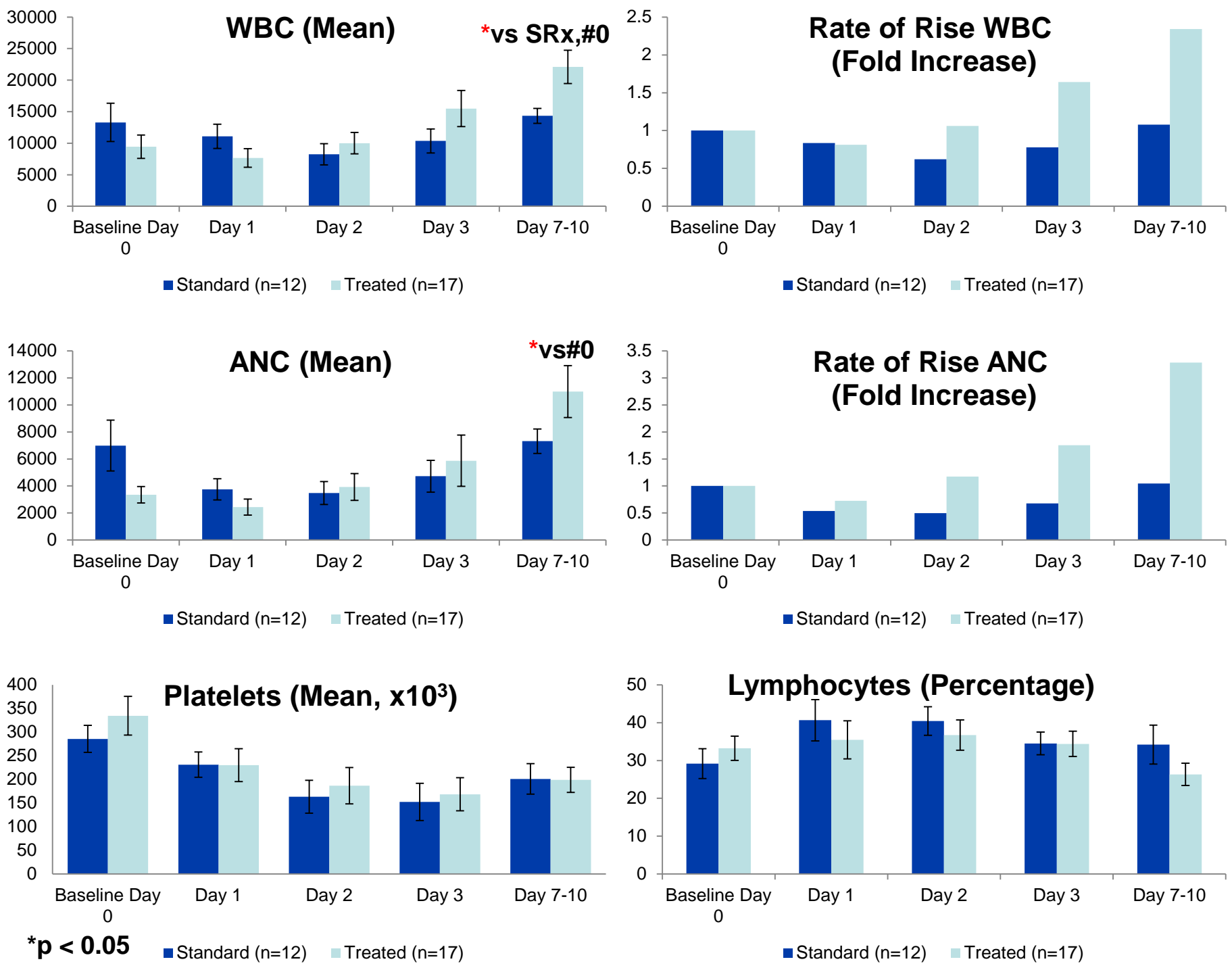
## Clinical Characteristics at Onset

	Standard n=12	Treated n=17
DOL @ NEC (d) Mean ± SEM (Median, min-max)	20 ± 3.7 (17, 6-36)	23 ± 4.9 (21, 9-64)
PCA @ NEC (d)	30 ± 0.8 (30, 27-34)	31 ± 0.8 (31, 28-37)
Weight @ NEC (g)	1287 ± 140 (1260, 770-1910)	1272 ± 129 (1270, 680-2240)
Positive blood culture %(n)	8 (1)	12 (2)
HCT 48hrs prior to NEC	32 ± 1.3 (32, 27-41)	35 ± 2.7 (33, 24-57)
Presence of PDA %(n)	50 (6)	47 (8)
Treatment with Indomethacin %(n)	42 (5)	24 (4)
Full Oral Feeds %(n)	50 (6)	76 (13)
Feeding with Formula %(n)	50 (6)	53 (9)
Ventilator Dependent %(n)	25 (3)	23 (4)

## Clinical Outcomes at Discharge

	Standard n=12	Treated n=17
Surgery %(n)	50 (6)	35 (6)
Death at 1 week %(n)	8 (1)	12 (2)
Death at 1wk- 1 month	0	0
Days to full feeds after NEC mean ± sd (median)	16 ± 7 (13 )	21 ± 17 (14.5 )
Full feeds within 3 wks of antibiotics %(n)	83 (10)	71 (12)
Primary outcome (Survival or attain full feeds within 3weeks) %(n)	92 (11)	88 (15)
Time discharge (days) mean ± sd (median)	91 ± 37 (83)	102 ± 42 (108)

## Hematologic Results



## Conclusions

- There was no increase in complications (ROP,IVH,PVL and death) indicating the trial can continue. We plan to sustain enrollment to reach the desired goal of 25 subjects in each group.
- In the interim analysis we have not found statistically significant differences in our primary outcome.
- GCSF+IVIG increased WBC and ANC significantly even in critically ill neonates, rate of rise more then standard treatment.
- No effect on platelet and lymphocyte counts in either group.

## References

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